

Message Text

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ORIGIN VO-05

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DRAFTED BY VO:SPATTERSON:H:WCHRISTIANSON

APPROVED BY CA:BMWATSON

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CA - JDEWITT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148796

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, AP, SHUM

SUBJECT: ASYLUM - PROCEDURE FOR AFGHANS

REF: KABUL 4513 (NOTAL)

FOR AMBASSADOR ELIOT FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBARA M.

WATSON

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1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR THE AFGHAN CITIZENS WHO
WISH TO COME TO THE U.S. DUE TO THEIR FEAR OF PERSECUTION
FROM THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND THEIR TIES TO THE U.S., AND
THE THOUGHT YOU HAVE PUT INTO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR
PLIGHT.

2. AFGHANS FALL WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THEREFORE ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR SEVENTH PREFERENCE. WE RECOGNIZE INS PROCESSING POSTS ARE NOT CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR AFGHANS, BUT NOTE THAT CANDIDATES REACHED SUCH POSTS IN THE PAST. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MIGHT POSSIBLY HELP WITH TRAVEL AND MAINTENANCE ONCE REFUGEES HAVE LEFT AFGHANISTAN, ALTHOUGH THEY CANNOT GIVE ASSURANCES IN ADVANCE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC CASES. SEVENTH PREFERENCE NUMBERS ARE CURRENT FOR AFGHANS, BUT ROUTINE PROCESSING REQUIRES AN AVERAGE TIME IN PROCESSING POST OF 2-5 MONTHS.

3. INDIVIDUAL CASES OF PARTICULAR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN BECAUSE OF IMMINENT DANGER, AGE OR HEALTH FACTORS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY EMBASSY TO DEPARTMENT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIAN PAROLE. IN STRONGLY DOCUMENTED CASES WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE INS TO RESPOND FAVORABLY.

4. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE ISSUANCE OF NIVS TO THOSE INTENDING TO RESIDE IN THE U.S. A PROPER PROCEDURE AND SUGGEST USE OF EITHER INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIAN PAROLE OR APPLYING FOR 7TH PREFERENCE REFUGEE STATUS.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE IS CURRENTLY NO UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN TEHRAN OR PAKISTAN, THERE ARE U.N. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OFFICES, WHICH FREQUENTLY ACT AS A CHANNEL TO UNHCR.

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AFGHANS WHO MAKE IT TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY AND ARRIVE DESTITUTE OR NEEDING HELP IN OBTAINING VISAS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO A PROCESSING COUNTRY COULD SEEK IT FROM THOSE OFFICES. ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY IN IRAN MAY ALSO BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE.

6. PLEASE BE ASSURED OF MY CONTINUING INTEREST IN YOUR EFFORTS AND OF MY SUPPORT IN WAYS IN WHICH I CAN BE HELPFUL. BEST REGARDS. VANCE

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NNN

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